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MEREDITH TOWN REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH, 1848.

The Selectmen charge themselves with the following items, viz :

Cash, Collector's list, notes, bills, &c., reported by the Auditors, March 3, 1847,	\$629 19
Assessment of State tax,	563 85
" " County tax,	932 47
" " School tax,	926 99
" " Town tax,	1260 00
" " Road tax,	315 00
Literary fund received July, 1847,	84 14
Cash received of David B. Plumer, fund agent for school and parsonage interest,	102 33
Cash of John T. Coffin, interest on surplus revenue,	236 24
Cash received of county,	188 25
Cash received of John G. Robinson, school fund agent, for interest,	181 55
Cash received of Thomas Eastman,	12 00
Cash received of D. P. Smith, for rent of the Downing farm,	20 00
Cash voted to pay school district No. 19,	15 00
Cash received for abatements,	2 75
	\$5469 76
Cash borrowed of John G. Robinson, town agent,	100 00
	\$5569 76

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Which is accounted for as follows, viz :

Paid for external poor for the year past—

To paid the town of Sandwich for support of Olive Hill,	\$18 25
To paid Mrs. Leavitt for taking care of Noah Veasey,	8 00
To paid Henry Bean for taking care of John Tilton,	3 00
To paid Polly Fogg for the support of Joseph Fogg,	7 00
To paid B. B. Rollins for necessaries for Robert Bryant,	7 25
To paid H. B. Plumer for wood for Robert Bryant,	5 50
To paid John Sanborn's bill for doctoring at the town farm, and other paupers, per agreement,	20 00
To paid R. E. Merrill's bill for doctoring at the town farm, and other paupers, by agreement,	20 00
To paid Bean & Noyes' bill for necessaries for J. Fogg and others,	2 33
To paid Pitman, Barron & Co., for necessaries for Joseph Fogg,	5 90
To paid J. M. & C. S. Prescott for wood for Mrs. Farrar,	1 94
To paid for the support of Simeon Taylor's family,	62 00
To paid Dr. D. S. Doe's bill for doctoring S. Bickford,	6 00
To paid Peter Severence for taking care of S. Bickford,	20 00
To paid Sarah A. Gile for taking care of Mrs. G. Pickering,	5 00
To paid C. Parker for journey to Loudon on account of pauper,	4 50
To paid Hazen Marstin for services on town farm in 1846,	193 00
To paid Samuel Mugridge for pair of boots for S. Dockam, in 1846,	1 34
To paid C. W. & R. K. Parker's bill,	16 72
To paid J. Ela for taking affidavit in pauper case,	1 00
To paid J H. Holland for journey to Moultonboro',	1 00
To paid Simeon Taylor for the support of his family in 1846,	12 00
To paid Dr. D. S. Doe for doctoring the Taylor family in 1846,	8 00
To paid Abel B. Eastman for journey to Deerfield,	7 47

To paid J. G. Robinson for taking affidavits in pauper case,	34
To paid Joseph Neal, jr., for wood for Mrs. Farrar,	6 00
To paid J. W. Lang for wood for Mrs. Farrar,	1 67
To paid Joseph Knowles' bill for doctoring Frank Shaw,	8 50
To paid Joseph Knowles' bill for doctoring Joel Dockam,	10 75
To paid Moses G. Plumer's bill for necessities for the town farm,	113 21
To paid Samuel Leavitt, jr., for taking care of Betsey Watson,	5 00
To paid Joseph Knowles for doctoring in district No. 1,	15 00
To paid John L. French for taking care of S. Jane Tilton,	39 00
	\$636 67

Paid current expenses as follows :

To paid D. S. Vittum for printing reports,	\$10 00
To paid Gurriel Corliss' bill for horse keeping, and board for selectmen,	10 78
To paid William C. Clarke's account,	10 00
" Bartlett Hill for notice on road indictment,	2 91
" State tax,	537 00
" County tax,	888 07
" Warren Lovell's bill	29 11
" Saunders & Burt's bill,	23 91
" Thomas Eastman's bill,	4 00
" Stephen Pickering's bill,	5 00
" Jacob Tenney's bill,	1 50
" Ebenezer Stevens' bill,	4 00
" George W. Robinson's bill,	1 00
" Thomas Eastman's bill,	5 00
" witnesses in J. C. Moulton case,	5 04
" Road Commissioners' bill in J. C. Moulton case,	34 20
" Dearborn Wadleigh for taking care of town house,	50
" Edward Chase for surveying lumber,	25
" John Swain for balance of bill for building pound,	15 50

To paid Fowler & Pierce's bill,	\$5 00
To paid Road Commissioners' bill for travel,	2 60
To paid Abel B. Eastman's bill for cow,	14 00
To paid E. S. Lawrence's bill for insurance tax on the town farm,	6 00
To paid for postage and stationery, &c.,	5 28
To paid Bowen for horse keeping,	25
To paid Eben Sanborn, jr., for wood for plough,	2 25
To paid David Plumer's bill for shingles,	10 25
To paid tax for repairing school house in district No. 7,	5 51
To paid abatement of Luther Boynton and Hil- liard Shaw's tax for 1846,	3 24
To paid Eleazer Young's bill for boarding Road Commissioners,	11 00
To paid Eleazer Young for surveying Williams' hill road,	1 00
To paid Charles Parker's bill for boarding select- men,	13 40
To paid Charles Parker for boarding Nathan Batch- elder while at work on M. bridge,	1 00
To paid John T. Coffin for interest on note of \$547,	32 82
To paid John T. Coffin's bill for services as agent to loan the surplus money,	7 50
To paid J. K. Young's bill for services as super- intending school committee,	15 00
To paid Taylor S. Grant's bill of abatements for 1844,	1 50
To paid Taylor S. Grant's bill for collection,	10 00
To paid S. J. Pitman's services as superintending school committee,	12 50
To paid S. J. Pitman's bill for services as town clerk,	19 00
To paid tax on the town farm,	8 00
To paid Taylor L. Grant's bill for collecting in 1846,	1 90
To paid S. W. Mead's bill of abatements in 1846,	1 95
To paid Taylor L. Grant for militia,	28 00
To paid Benjamin B. Rollins for militia,	40 00
To paid Wm. H. Wadleigh for militia,	30 50
To paid Nathaniel Clark for militia,	29 00
To paid George A. Swain for militia,	30 50
To paid George Conner for militia,	13 00

To paid David B. Plumer for making bond for and settling with J. G. Robinson,	1 00
To paid Giles Leach for services as superintending school committee,	15 00
To paid Charles Parker's bill for services as selectman,	70 00
To paid Abel B. Eastman's bill for services as selectman,	65 50
To paid Thomas H. Holland's bill for services as selectman,	66 75
To paid Elias Glidden's bill for boarding selectmen, auditors, collectors, horses, &c.,	36 00
To paid the several tax payers their proportion of interest arising from surplus revenue,	154 40
To paid Vittum & West for printing teachers' certificates,	2 00
To paid Moses G. Plumer's bill for stock and labor laid out on the buildings at the town farm,	153 13
To paid David Y. Smith for services as selectman,	3 00
To paid S. W. Mead's bill of abatements for 1846,	22 70
To paid John G. Robinson for services as fund agent,	7 00
To paid auditor's bills,	4 50
To paid Webster & Glidden for balance due on account in 1846,	94

\$2,552 14

PAID FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES.

To paid James M. Hanson for labor on M. bridge,	3 75
" Smith Jewett for labor on bridge,	3 75
" Amos Hadley for labor on his district,	1 10
" Thomas Babb for labor on M. bridge,	3 00
" Nathan Batchelder for labor on M. bridge,	9 00
" John Smith for award,	39 50
" Washington Smith for award,	35 77
" Joshua R. Smith for award,	6 75
" Bartlett Hill for award,	3 75
" Eliphalet Blaisdell for award,	27 00
" Charles R. Swain's bill for plank,	6 15
" H. L. Hazelton's bill for plank,	2 09

To paid S. C. Lyford and Richard Hodsdon for award,	70 00
" Cole, Davis & Co's bill for lumber for Mer- edith bridge,	38 00
" Mrs. Esther Blaisdell for award,	50 00
" David Blaisdell for damage to crops, &c.,	4 00
" Col. Simeon Wadleigh for making new road around the Williams' hill,	161 03
" Nathan B. Wadleigh for timber for M. bridge,	2 97
" S. W. Mead for labor on M. bridge,	4 00
" Sam'l S. Blaisdell for plank,	2 95
" Samuel Mugridge for damage done wheels,	2 50
" Thomas J. Kimball's bill for plank,	1 56
" Thomas D. Veasey's bill for plank,	4 06
" Thomas Leavitt's bill for plank,	4 73
" J. B. Tilton's bill for plank,	86
" Moses G. Plumer's bill for plank,	1 60
" Moses G. Plumer for work on new road,	4 17
" Edward Chase's bill for plank,	7 15
" Jeremiah B. Swain's bill for plank,	5 33
" Richard Plumer's bill for guide boards,	3 50
" Richard Neal's bill for repairing the Haw- kins' bridge,	12 50
" Jacob Hawkins' bill for plank,	2 90
" Amos Cram's bill for plank,	96
" J. Dearborn for surveying the Williams' hill road,	1 25
" J. Robinson's bill for repairing new road,	2 50
" J. C. Wadleigh for repairing turnpike road,	5 00
" Luther Sanborn for plank,	1 28
" bill for repairing the turnpike road,	46 03
" Jonathan Robinson for breaking new road,	10 87
" N. F. Wadleigh's bill for plank,	3 87
" David Plumer's bill for plank,	2 80
" Benjamin Perkins' bill for plank,	3 16
" Isaac Shaw for award,	4 37
" Bean & Noyes' bill for powder,	3 84
" Daniel Smith's bill for plank,	28 52
" David R. Lovejoy for award on neck road,	5 30
" J. S. Hawkins' bill for plank,	1 14
" Jonathan Brown, jr. for breaking road,	4 17
" J. P. Pitman's bill,	1 62

To paid James C. Wadleigh's bill for breaking turnpike road,	4 69
" Elias Glidden's bill for plank,	2 66
	\$659 45

RECAPITULATION.

Paid out on account of schools,	\$1,146 76
" on account of poor,	636 67
" town expenses,	2,552 14
" roads and bridges,	659 45
" parsonage funds,	85 31
Collector's lists and notes on hand,	701 28
	5,781 61
Deduct the amount which they charge themselves with,	5,569 76
Leaves a balance due the selectmen,	211 85—\$5,781 61

Respectfully subscribed by

CHARLES PARKER,	} Selectmen of Meredith.
ABEL B. EASTMAN,	
THOS. H. HOLLAND,	

The undersigned having examined the foregoing accounts of the selectmen, find them correctly cast and well vouched.

STEPHEN F. SWAIN,	} Auditors.
NOAH PEASE,	
ROBERT E. MERRILL,	

March 8, 1848.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE DUE THE TOWN.

Balance of interest due on Surplus Revenue fund up to March 1, 1848,	\$352 65
Balance of interest due on school and parsonage funds,	97 04
Due from the county for support of paupers, about	130 00
Collector's lists and notes on hand,	701 28
	\$1,260 97

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Due J. T. Coffin, fund agent for money borrowed,	\$547 00
Due the several religious societies,	162 69
Due Moses G. Plumer, March 1, 1848,	160 00
Due John G. Robinson for money borrowed,	100 00
Due the selectmen,	211 85
	\$1,181 54
Leaving a balance in favor of the town of	\$79 43

SURPLUS MONEY.

Invested as follows :

Notes on interest,	\$4,634 65
Paid on 100 shares rail road stock,	2,700 00
Cash in agent's hands,	105 20
	\$7,439 85
Interest unpaid on notes,	352 65

JOHN T. COFFIN, Agent to loan surplus money.

March 2, 1848.

OVERSEER'S REPORT OF AFFAIRS AT THE
ALMS HOUSE, MARCH 1, 1848.

INVOICE OF PROPERTY.

2 Oxen, 90 ; 4 cows and 1 yearling, 105,	\$195 00
20 Sheep, 40 ; 3 shoats, 40,	80 00
16½ Tons hay, 165 ; 100 bushels corn, 100	265 00
2½ Bushels wheat, 3 75 ; 8½ bushels oats, 4,	7 75
12 Bushels beans, 18 ; 150 bushels potatoes, 60 ;	78 00
44½ lbs. tallow,	4 45
126 lbs. fresh hams, ribs, &c,	9 65
153 lbs. bacon, 15 30 ; apple sauce and barrel, 3 00	18 30
41 lbs. dried apples, 2 05 ; 100 lbs. lard, 10 00	12 05
55 cords wood,	55 00
1½ bbls. vinegar, 6 00 ; 58 lbs. butter, 9 67	15 67
193 lbs. cheese, 15 44 ; 1 bushel onions, 1 00	16 44
1 bbl. soap and 3 barrels,	3 50
2 bushels apples,	1 00

Lot sole and upper leather,	3 60
900 lbs. pork, 112 50 ; 425 lbs. beef, 21 25	133 75
18 dozen candles, 4 00 ; 6 lbs. yarn, 2 50	6 50
3 lbs. wool,	75
Lumber at the mill and at house,	30 00
Betterments on buildings,	350 00
15 rods stone wall,	15 00
About 170 rods fence,	71 00
Am't of farming tools, beds, bedding, clothing and household furniture, &c.,	583 92
	\$1,956 33

The overseers of the poor find the property at the alms house, March 1st, 1847, to have been appraised at \$1,267 21	
Due from the county,	68 00
	\$1,335 21
The amount at the alms house March 1st, 1848	1,956 33
Due from the county,	97 50
	2,053 83
From which deduct the amount of 1847, March 1,	1,335 21
Which leaves a balance in favor of the town,	718 62
Amount due the superintendent March 1, 1848,	\$160 00
Interest on the purchase money for the farm,	96 00
Paid for necessities at the alms house,	113 21
	369 21
Received of the county for the sup- port of paupers on the farm,	188 25
	\$180 96

CHARLES PARKER, }
 ABEL B. EASTMAN, } Overseers of the poor.
 THOS. H. HOLLAND, }

NAMES AND AGES OF PERSONS AT THE ALMS HOUSE,
 AND WHO HAVE THEIR SUPPORT THEREFROM.

<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>	
Humphrey Eaton,	68	Lydia Griffin,	68
John Haven,	57	Susan Edgerly,	57
David Clough,	41	Hannah Smith,	57

John Tilton,	51	Pluma Thurston,	41
Joseph Batchelder,	24	Olive Hill,	38
Hiram Currier,	11	Rhoda Farrar,	50
		Harriet Shepherd,	38
		Harriet Merrill,	18

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The \$1,131 76 of school money has been divided among the twenty-three districts of the town as follows :

No. 1—\$224 58	No. 13— \$25 17
No. 2— \$91 58	No. 14— \$19 96
No. 3— \$67 65	No. 15—\$125 30
No. 4— \$35 74	No. 16— \$57 26
No. 5— \$31 98	No. 17— \$20 58
No. 6— \$36 16	No. 18— \$69 53
No. 7— \$52 80	No. 19— \$15 77
No. 8— \$30 60	No. 20— \$35 77
No. 9— \$25 69	No. 21— \$16 72
No. 10— \$37 45	No. 22— \$9 37
No. 11— \$35 90	No. 23— \$37 71
No. 12— \$28 49	

\$1,131 76

Two of the districts in the above list are only in part in this town, and in relation to them we make no report. In the other districts in town there have been schools for a longer or shorter time during the year. There have been twenty-seven teachers connected with these schools. The highest wages paid for the summer school, \$7 50* per month, exclusive of board. Average wages, about \$5 75 per month. The highest wages paid per month in the winter school, \$18 ; and the average, about \$13, exclusive of board. The greatest number of months in a district in which there has been a school is *ten* : the shortest school, *one month*. The average length of schools, fourteen weeks. Of the teachers of these schools, fourteen were male and seventeen female.

The Superintending School Committee, in the discharge of their duties, have held several meetings for the examination of teachers : to consult and decide in relation to the school-books to be used ; and devise measures to promote the highest interests of the schools. They have also during

* In this report the wages of teachers is in all cases given exclusive of board.

the year made *fifty-six* visits to the schools. The object of the first visit, near the commencement of each school, has been to learn the state of the school; to impress upon the pupils the immense value of education, and the necessity of untiring efforts to secure it, and to make such other suggestions as the good of the school might seem to require. The visit at the close of the school was mainly to witness the improvement; and, to encourage the school, to *speak of that* improvement; and to make such remarks as are fitted to excite scholars to persevere in efforts to climb the "hill of science."

It has been the practice of the Committee sometimes to suggest faults they witnessed *publicly* in the school, but often privately to the teachers.

The Committee would now call attention to the several districts: the remarks on each must be much more brief than they could wish, that this report may not be extended to too great length.

No. 1. Miss Adaline Folsom, teacher—wages, \$7 50; length of school, 20 weeks; whole number of scholars, 71—average attendance, 49. Although this school continued five months, with a vacation of only three weeks, the interest of the scholars was fully sustained to the close of the school. The improvement of her pupils was manifest and highly creditable to the instructor. The Committee do not recollect that they have at any time witnessed greater improvement where the scholars are so young, and at the same time so numerous. In the winter school, Mr. J. B. Garland was the teacher—wages, \$18; ninety different scholars—average number, 48. Besides the usual studies of our common schools, Natural Philosophy, History, Algebra and Surveying were successfully taught. The school was highly profitable and very satisfactory to the Committee.

No. 2. Miss A. C. Blake, teacher in the summer school—41 different scholars—average attendance, 30; length of school, 12 weeks—wages, \$4 67. From the appearance of this school at the visits of the Committee, they were of opinion that the scholars were making progress, and that the teacher was interested in her employment. The winter school was taught by Mr. B. B. Morgan; 52 different scholars; average attendance, 40; wages, \$15—length of school, 9 weeks. This school has not probably been under better government for many years, and the improvement of the scholars has been highly creditable to themselves and their teacher.

No. 3. Miss Mary E. Boynton, teacher in the summer school ; 50 different scholars—average number, 37 ; wages, \$5. The Committee regret that, in consequence of a misapprehension as to the time of closing the school, it was not visited a second time ; but from an earlier visit, and the remarks of some in the district, it is believed that the school was profitable. Mr. E. G. Hoit taught the winter school, and proved himself to be a very successful teacher. It is seldom that so great improvement is made in so short a time ; and the Committee have been happy to learn that parents so highly appreciated his services as to secure them for a private school.

No. 4. Summer school—Miss M. J. Bartlett, teacher—school 2 months in length ; wages, \$5 per month. There were 19 different scholars—average number, 16. Winter school—Mr. D. P. Cotton, was the teacher ; wages, \$12—length of school, about six weeks. The school both in winter and summer was orderly.

No. 5. The amount of school money in this district is small, and was all expended in one term. Miss Hannah Neal, teacher. There are a few excellent scholars in this district, and the money was well expended. The Committee regret that this, with other districts, have so short schools.

No. 6. This school had for a teacher, both in summer and winter, Miss Louisa Hawkins. Length of summer school, about 7 weeks—winter school, about 11 weeks. Wages in summer, \$5—in winter, \$5 67 per month. There has been some increase of interest in education in this district within a short time : we hope it will continue and greatly increase.

No. 7. Mr. A. C. Flanders, teacher. This school was excellent, and great improvement was manifest in some of the scholars.

No. 9. Miss Susan H. Sargent, teacher ; 30 different scholars—average attendance, 20 ; school 10 weeks long ; wages of teacher, \$7 per month : the examination was satisfactory.

No. 10. Winter school taught by Mr. T. J. Mead ; 25 different scholars—average number, 18 ; school 2 months long ; wages, \$13 per month. Good order : interest in both teacher and scholars : correctness and promptness at the examination.

No. 11. This school, of which the teacher has made no report, was visited by the Committee. More than usual attention was given to some branches, especially reading.

No. 12. Winter school—Miss Mary Ann C. Kelley, teacher ; 32 different scholars—average number, 25 ; school 7 weeks long ; wages of teacher, \$5 50 per month. This school, considering its advantages, is one of the best in town ; and both parents and children manifest a good degree of interest in education.

No. 13. The school money was all expended in one term. Miss Mary Smith, teacher ; 21 different scholars—average number, 19 ; school 2 months in length ; wages, \$8 per month. The discipline of the school was good, and the examination indicated the qualification of the teacher, and diligence of scholars.

No. 15. In this district are two departments : the teachers in the summer were, Mrs. Sarah E. Fowler and Mrs. S. M. Vittum : length of schools, 2 months. In both departments, 84 different scholars—average attendance, 70 ; wages, about \$7 per month each. The winter schools were taught by Mr. Levi Leach and Miss Sarah W. Lang : wages of Mr. L., \$14, and of Miss L., \$6 33 per month. There were in both departments 101 different scholars—average attendance, 80. Very many of the scholars of this district have made commendable progress during the year. Besides the common branches of education, Botany, Algebra, and Physiology have in this district received attention, and by several scholars, considerable progress in them made. The Committee were exceedingly gratified in the attention given to the modulation of the voice in reading. The four teachers were competent and faithful, and the improvement of scholars satisfactory.

No. 16. Miss Mary A. Dickson, teacher of the summer school. The Committee were not notified, nor aware that the school was to close at the time it did, and consequently, very much to their regret, it was visited but once ; and we have no report to make in respect to the summer school. Winter school—Mr. Levi Leach, teacher—wages, \$12 ; different scholars, 42—average, 40. This school has been favored with a larger number of good teachers than most districts of our town. The scholars are unusually punctual in their attendance. Parents and others indicate an interest by often attending the examination : on the whole, this is one of the best schools in town.

No. 17. Miss Catharine Wiggin, teacher ; 23 different scholars—average number, 15. The examination at the close testified to the fidelity of the teacher and diligence of the scholars.

No. 18. Winter school—Mr. B. Morgan, teacher ; 56 different scholars—45 the average attendance ; school 10 weeks in length ; wages, \$17 per month. The Committee were not notified and did not visit this school at its close : they are, however, satisfied that the school was profitable. Miss E. Johnson's school in the summer had 41 different scholars—30 on an average ; continued 10 weeks ; wages, \$5 per month. The teacher gave evidence of superior qualifications to teach, and the scholars of a disposition to store their minds with useful learning.

No. 19. Miss Susan Gordon, teacher ; 16 different scholars—16 the average attendance ; wages \$7 per month : continued 4 weeks.

The committee regret that of this school they had no notice from the prudential committee. But learning that it had an existence, one of our number improved the first opportunity to visit it ; but on the way was informed that it had closed. The testimony in the report of the teacher is, "that the scholars made improvement in reading, and in spelling, and that one disorderly scholar caused great disturbance."

No. 23. Miss Margarette H. Sleeper, teacher—only one term of school ; 42 different scholars ; 28 average attendance—continued 12 weeks ; wages \$7 per month. The committee thought favorably of the school.

Such, briefly, is a statement of the schools the past year. We have chosen not to speak in our remarks on the several schools, of the disqualification of some teachers and other matters of censure. The committee have found much in the schools deserving commendation. Some of the teachers particularly were found to be intelligent, faithful, energetic, interested in their employment, with an unusual ability to interest scholars, and communicate the knowledge they possessed to others. We wish we could say as much of all the teachers. Their convictions, however, are, that the qualifications of some have not been so good as they ought to be. And some of the schools have been far less profitable than we could have wished. There has manifestly been, for several years past, however, a gradual improvement in teachers, as a whole.

The "Teachers' Institute," held at Meredith Bridge, in November last, it is believed, furnished us with some better teachers than we should otherwise have had. And it is a matter of rejoicing to the friends of primary education to witness the increased attention to the qualification of teachers ; and that the opinion is no longer entertained, at least to any great extent, that "such as could do nothing else will answer for teachers of our common schools." The immense value of primary schools is more correctly appreciated than formerly. The most gifted minds and benevolent hearts are employed to promote them. And the impression in the minds of the community is deepening, that the *mind* is too valuable to be committed for instruction to unskillful hands. And we hail the "Teachers' Institutes" of our time as fitted to raise up a noble band of teachers, who are to exert a mighty influence in the improvement of common schools.— In several of the counties of our State these "Institutes" have been held. In one county *one hundred and fifty* teachers were in attendance. In others too, a good degree of interest was manifest. In others still, we learn that the incipient steps have been taken to hold them. And the committee hope the several towns in this county will decide to appropriate the sum which, by an act of our Legislature, they are permitted to do, to sustain a "Teachers' Institute" in Belknap county.

The committee are happy to report that the discipline of the schools the last year has been better than heretofore.— From their visits and from other sources of information, they have been satisfied that a few schools have suffered for want of government. Yet generally there has been evidence of order. And the committee are happy to add that they have not once during the year been called together on account of insubordination in scholars. For several years it has been otherwise.

The committee are unwilling to close this report without attempting respectfully to urge upon the inhabitants of this town the importance of an increased interest in respect to our common schools. We are not, perhaps, in this, behind most other towns around us. Yet we think the interest is far less than it should be. Let our school houses be comfortable and inviting. Let it not be the object to get the *cheapest* but the *best* teacher. Let prudential committees visit the schools. The report of the teachers show that only six visits were made by them the last year. Let parents, too,

and others, visit the schools to see to whom they commit the care of their children; and thus, too, manifest an interest in schools. Let there be a readiness to contribute liberally the funds requisite to raise up a generation with cultivated minds, prepared to act well their parts in life.

J. K. YOUNG,
S. J. PITMAN,
GILES LEACH.